

ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING
(Drought)

WHEREAS, the Colorado County Commissioners Court finds that drought conditions exist in all unincorporated areas of the county:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that outdoor burning is restricted in all unincorporated areas of the county for 90 days from the date of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service, this Court, or the County Judge. This Order is adopted pursuant to local Government Code §352.081(c)(1), and other applicable statutes. This Order restricts outdoor burning as follows:

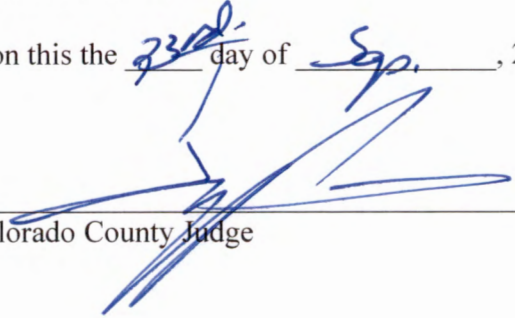
1. **Outdoor burning banned.** Unless an exception appears below, the use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials include, but are not limited to the use of all fireworks, burning of trash, brush and open campfires and materials used outdoors in activities that could result in a fire.
2. **Exceptions.** The following outdoor activities shall be allowed provided they are attended at all times and all following precautionary rules and measures are strictly followed:
 - **Household Trash.** Burning of household trash in a receptacle that is enclosed and covered with a mesh material with no more than ¼ inch openings and supervised in a safe area clear of debris.
 - **Barbecues** using above-ground grills, with enclosed fireboxes, in a safe area clear of debris or other combustible materials and attended at all times.
 - **Controlled burns** necessary for planting and harvesting agricultural crops with a defensible space around the burn area, presence of fire suppression tools, and personal presence during the entire controlled burn.
 - **Authorized by TCEQ.** This order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighting training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resource Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resource Code.
 - **Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge** maintenance activities.
 - **Non-Profit & Religious Organizations** shall be allowed to prepare barbecue provided they contact their local fire department in advance for a site visit by a member of the department and follow all precautionary measures directed by such department.
 - **Outdoor Welding** shall only be allowed under the following circumstances:
 - (i) welding, cutting and grinding associated with welding activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 miles per hour;
 - (ii) the welder must notify the Colorado County Sheriff's Department before any welding, cutting or grinding begins;
 - (iii) all grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared with a twenty (20) foot radius surrounding the area where activity is to take place before any welding, cutting or grinding begins; and,

- (iv) a spotter with water and a ready pressurized delivery system must be on hand before any welding, cutting or grinding begins and remain on hand until the activity is completed.

In accordance with the Local Government Code §352.081(h), a violation of this order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00.

The purpose of this Order is the mitigation of the public safety hazard posed by wildfires due to severe weather conditions by restricting use of combustible materials.

Approved and so ordered by Commissioners Court on this the 23rd day of Sept., 2024.



Colorado County Judge